



THE LOCAL HEALTH LINK

Stimulating Shorts from Frankfort

GOVERNOR'S TEAM MANAGEMENT MEETING

*-submitted by Commissioner's
Office, Dept. for Public Health*

"I am not just making a cameo appearance here," announced Governor Paul E. Patton. "I want to talk with you about where we want to go and how we propose to get there."

And indeed he did not make merely a cameo appearance. Governor Patton remained omnipresent at the meeting he convened for all non-merit state employees at the Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in Frankfort on October 22, 1997. He commented that he wanted to feel free to step up to the podium and affirm the remarks of his executive staff. A high-energy man--the Governor seemed to be everywhere.

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While urging everyone to mix and mingle during the lunch hour, he modeled that behavior by sitting with several groups for lunch. When the DPH staff returned to our table after picking up our box lunches (choice of a ham or turkey sandwich with a fresh fruit cup), the Governor was chatting with Deputy Commissioner Sharon Stumbo while eating his lunch. After Nursing Director Viola Brown sat down with her lunch, he got into a discussion about what to do about teen pregnancy. The Governor wanted Ms. Brown's insights into this complicated problem. The Health Services staff sensed the Governor's genuine interest and concern, and desire to understand the issue.

Throughout the Governor's remarks, recognition of the contributions of others remained a constant theme. His executive staff carried this idea forward by emphasizing the work of their own management teams. For example, when Lt. Governor Stephen

L. Henry began his remarks, he praised his staff for keeping him focused and knowledgeable, and for advising him on every issue. Other executive staff on center stage were Chief of Staff Andrew "Skipper" Martin, a charming Master of Ceremonies, and Secretary of the Cabinet Crit Luallen. In introducing Secretary Luallen, MC Martin endeared himself to the women in the audience when he quoted former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, "If you want someone to talk, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman."

Though she did not come on stage, First Lady Judi Patton attended the meeting. When the Governor introduced his wife, he praised her initiatives in tackling domestic violence and child abuse. A very active first lady, Mrs. Patton works in several other areas of personal concern including breast cancer prevention, the preservation of Kentucky's Native American

heritage, and with history and preservation through the Kentucky Historical Society. Like her husband, "work" seems to be an operative word to Mrs. Patton, for she is obviously an integral part of the Governor's management team.

Giant overheads outlined the strategic agenda of the Patton administration with goals and strategies clearly visible on the big screen, through handouts, and with commentary from key executive staff.

GOAL: Set Kentucky on the path to achieving economic opportunity and a standard of living above the national average in 20 years.

Strategy #1: Promoting economic development

Strategy #2: Improving the educational product

Strategy #3: Building self-sustaining families

Strategy #4: Strengthening the financial condition of state government

Strategy #5: Reducing crime and its costs to society

State Budget Director Jim Ramsey, an economist from Western Kentucky University, presented the "Budget Overview." He told the audience that this governor really understands the budget and that they actually enjoy poring over spreadsheets together. Mr. Ramsey emphasized the need for more jobs for Kentuckians because jobs mean income and income means payment of taxes. Resounding the Governor's theme of giving credit to others, he paid tribute to the contributions of University of Kentucky economists Merl Hackbart and Charles Haywood. A Patton approach to any issue is to examine its long-term impact, which Mr. Ramsey, an inspired "number cruncher," discussed in looking at revenue and expenditure trends. Mr.

Ramsey's enthusiasm enabled him to make sense for us of the "Governor's Budget Priorities and Goals for the 1998-2000 Biennium."

Ron Bingham, an engineer from LexMark, heralded the "EMPOWER Kentucky Initiative" as the largest statewide reengineering project ever undertaken. Mr. Bingham reviewed the cost-saving results of EMPOWER. Many of these results were brought about by simplifying and streamlining procedures and by changing how we work so that we make it easier for our customers, the people of Kentucky. Time after time Mr. Bingham repeated, "That makes a lot of sense to us," as he highlighted the results of EMPOWER Kentucky. EMPOWER Kentucky has changed the Commonwealth by focusing state government on the customer: "Everyone has a customer. Identify your customer. Serve your customer."

At this point in the session the Governor took the microphone to talk about a common misconception we have about government, "Once we begin doing something, we must continue doing it." The Governor stressed his belief that we need to prioritize programs and services if we are going to get to where we want to go.

The final segment for the Governor's "Team Management Meeting" focused on the "1998 Legislative Priorities for the Patton Administration." These priorities include EMPOWER Kentucky, welfare reform, juvenile justice, economic development, and cabinet and agency reorganizations.

The all-day meeting in downtown Frankfort brought home the message of a dynamic governor who wants to let his team in on where we are going

and how we are going to get there. Governor Patton wants his team to work with him. It was a highly effective way to showcase an energetic, vital governor whose genuine concern for all Kentuckians became obvious to his team. Many veteran state employees were heard to remark that it was the first time in their memories that a governor had met with all non-merit employees. The Governor's team managers left Farnham Dudgeon feeling not only upbeat and valued but ready to contribute their parts to promote the Governor's programs.

ACH Anecdotes

October was Child Health Month, as promoted by the American Academy of Pediatrics. As part of the observance, the Division of Adult and Child Health initiated an awareness project focusing on professional to parent education about early brain development. Critical to early brain development in the first three years is a warm supportive environment with caregivers who are loving, stable, and interactive. Lack of interaction or a poor social environment can actually be detrimental to a developing brain and have lifelong effects.

Each new baby is an open opportunity to intervene effectively and positively with young families. Understanding the impact of early brain development will allow every prenatal, well-child, and home visit to become an opportunity for effective preventive intervention to support early brain growth and emotional attachment. An introduction packet has been developed that includes the I Am Your Child video and pamphlets, SmartStart brochure, and other informational pamphlets. A limited quantity is available, please contact Zaida Belendez, ND, RN or Linda

Fritz-Hornsby, BSN, RN at (502) 564-2154 to request a packet or inform us as to any local initiatives in which you may be participating.
- submitted by Zaida Belendez,
Division of Adult & Child Health

Lab Lines

Attention Users of Precision QID Glucose Testing System: Precision QID will release enhanced glucose test strips in December or January called MICROFLO PLUS Test Strips.

Some points to note about the new test strips:

- Testing procedure remains the same
- Sample size has been reduced by 30% (from 5 μ L to 3.5 μ L)
- The sample area has a keyhole-like area that channels the blood into the test area
- The keyhole-like channel may vary in location within the test area. (The keyhole may not be centered in the sample area)
- The Hematocrit range has been extended to 20%-70%
- New strips may be used for neonatal testing

Attention All Clinical and Environmental Staff: Recently you

were asked to change to a new temporary UPS shipping address for the Division of Laboratory Services. Permanent addresses for all means of shipping have now been established and are effective immediately. The permanent addresses are listed below:

Letter Mail & Rabies Specimens:
Division of Laboratory Services
100 Sower Blvd., Ste 204
Frankfort, KY 40601

Newborn Screening Specimens:
(no change)
Division of Laboratory Services
P.O. Box 2010
Frankfort, KY 40602

All Other Specimens:
Division of Laboratory Services
100 Sower Blvd.
North Loading Dock
Frankfort, KY 40602-2020

The shipping labels provided by the Division, in the specimen collection kits, will be revised to reflect these address changes as soon as possible. In the meantime, we must ask that you manually correct the labels in stock to expedite delivery of the packages you send. If you have questions, please call Donna Clinkenbeard or Bill Gosney at 502-564-4446. Thank you for your patience as we strive to improve this system.

-submitted by Donna Clinkenbeard,
Division of Laboratory Services

LHDO 'Lights

"WIC Lady": Feeding by the Ton. Her health department clients call her the "WIC Lady." The kids in marching band call her "band mommy." Her church named her "Mother of the Year." Her sons and their friends call her "Mom." Her friends call her "Sharon."

She is Sharon Hensley, a veteran employee at the Estill County Health Department. For seventeen years, Sharon has served as coordinator of the "Women, Infants and Children's Food and Nutrition Supplemental Program," commonly called "WIC." In this role, she works to provide nutritional care for women and children from the prenatal stage through age five. As part of her task, she provides milk formula for babies. Thus, in addition to her unofficial title of "WIC Lady," she is also dubbed the "milk woman."

Having cared for young mothers and their children for seventeen years, Sharon said, "My first babies are now grown. Now, they are having children of their own. So I guess you could say that I'm a grandmother." "I enjoy my work," she explained, "because I enjoy people."

Her love for people, especially children and youth, contributed to her selection as the 1997 "Mother of the Year" at her church, the Calvary Baptist Church in West Irvine. Here too, she has numerous "children." Currently, she teaches fifth and sixth graders in Sunday School. She taught "Girls in Action," a missions study group for girls in the first through sixth grades.

Taking vacation time from her health department job, she served as Calvary's Vacation Bible School director for five years. "We served a lot of Kool-Aid and cookies during those years," she laughs. Indeed, Sharon is no stranger to providing food for the multitudes at her church. Last Easter, she helped bake three hundred homemade biscuits for the breakfast served after their sunrise service. As food coordinator for the community-wide "Youth encounter," hosted by her church last April, Sharon stockpiled 400 hot dogs, 450

cans of soft drinks, 66 big bags of chips, 25 batches of cookies, and 40 quarts of ice cream. "Teens eat by the ton," she explained with a laugh.

Sharon certainly knows about teenagers. She and her husband, Wes, have three sons. Marc, 22, is a senior mechanical engineering student at the University of Kentucky. Brian, 19, is a sophomore at Campbellsville University double majoring in secondary education and religion. Stephen, 17, a student at Estill County High School, lives at home with his parents in Irvine.

Each of her sons played with the Estill County Marching Band. Thus, Sharon served eight years as an active "band mommy." While none of her sons are now in the band, Sharon still attends band competitions, although she is under no parental obligation to do so. "Gotta go see my kids march," she said.

Her sons' widening circle of friends knows the hospitality and good cooking that she serves. Her son, Brian, for instance worked three summers as staff member at the Boone's Creek Baptist Camp in Clark County. Each year, Sharon hosted a meal for the entire staff in her home. Fifteen or more young adults shared in the delicious food and delightful fun. Her homemade dinner rolls were always popular. The all-time favorite meal, however, was Sharon's homemade lasagne. Requiring two days to make it, there were seldom leftovers when she served it.

With her friendly smile and genuine love for people, Sharon - at work, at church, at school, or at home - is an asset to the name Christian.
-submitted by Evelyn Tackett, Estill County Health Department.

This article appeared in their local paper on October 23. Although it is about their "WIC Lady," it reflects the health department as a whole. Their employees all have special relationships with their clients and patients. They are all very proud of Sharon.

PHPS Passages

Environmental Lead Poisoning

Prevention: Lead poisoning is considered to be a significant environmental threat facing children today. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 1.7 million children in the United States have blood lead levels exceeding the amount recognized as safe by the federal government.

Elemental lead is a highly toxic metal and exists throughout the United States. Approximately five (5) million tons of lead were used in residential paint; 7.3 million tons were used for leaded gas. Lead was also used in plumbing and numerous other consumer and industrial goods. Although lead pollution prevention methods are underway by curtailing current uses and production, lead continues to be a threat because it persists indefinitely in the environment.

Poisoning occurs when lead is absorbed. Lead absorption affects virtually every body system, most severely the brain and central nervous system. Extreme lead poisoning causes convulsions, mental retardation, seizures, and sometimes death. Children, infants, and fetuses are at particular risk because lead damages the developing brain and central nervous system. Low levels of lead poisoning reduce intelligence, delay cognitive growth and impair physical development.

In order to assure that competent inspections, investigative and abatement procedures are conducted, and consequently reduce the potential for lead poisonings, the certification of individuals to carry out these activities is essential.

Beginning July 1, 1997, all persons must be certified to perform or offer to perform lead-hazard detection or lead-hazard abatement services in target housing or child-occupied facilities described as follows:

"Target Housing" is defined as housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities in which no child less than six (6) years of age resides or is expected to reside.

"Child Occupied Facility" means a building, or portion of a building constructed prior to 1978 other than target housing in which a child, six (6) years of age or under, spends at least three (3) hours a day, two (2) days a week, including but not limited to, child day-care facilities, family child-care homes, preschools, and kindergarten classrooms.

Persons requiring these types of services in these locations should request documentation of Kentucky certification. Persons who are not certified by the Department of Public Health, Cabinet for Health Services, are subject to fines and penalties established by law.

For information concerning these new regulatory requirements or to report non-certified activity, contact officials of the Environmental Management Branch, Division of Public Health Protection & Safety at (502) 564-4856.

-submitted by Terry Wescott, Division of Public Health Protection & Safety

Training Tidbits

RTC Training Courses Offered -

FY 1998: The Regional Training Center (RTC), Atlanta, GA, will be conducting fifteen (15) training courses for local health department (LHD) personnel during the current fiscal year. These efforts are being coordinated through the Department for Public Health, Training and Development Branch. These are one-day sessions, and there is no fee for those individuals attending these courses. As you will notice, the training locations are being spread to more regions of the state to make the offerings more accessible to all LHD staff in an effort to reduce costs and to make it easier for staff to attend these trainings.

Information concerning the first six (6) courses has already been mailed to District Training Coordinators and single county LHDs. The remaining mailings will be forwarded to LHDs approximately four (4) months prior to each training course. Course dates, locations, and titles are listed below.

1/16/98 Lexington
- Marketing Public Health

1/30/98 Bowling Green
- STD Update

2/6/98 Lexington
- Postponing Sexual Involvement

3/27/98 Somerset
- Current Reproductive Health Issues-
RNs

3/27/98 Lexington
- Evaluating Your Program

4/3/98 Owensboro
- Abnormal Pap Smears

4/17/98 Lexington
- Family Violence

4/24/98 Bowling Green
- HIV / AIDS Update

5/1/98 Lexington
- Orientation for New Family
Planning RNs

5/21-22/98 Lexington
- Current Reproductive Health Issues-
Clinicians

5/29/98 Ashland
- Counseling Adolescents

6/12/98 Dawson Springs
- Handling Difficult People

6/19/98 Morehead
- TB: Meeting the New Challenge

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Bob Hurst at (502) 564-4990.

Videos on Loan: If you have any outstanding videotapes on loan for more than three (3) weeks, please return them to me at the address given in the Editor's Note. Thank you for your cooperation.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please submit articles, staff spotlight nominees, or suggestions for the newsletter to:

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